



# Preventing epidemics through science

**A Blueprint for research and development**

**20 January 2016**





# Preparing for the inevitable: the WHO R&D Blueprint

With more frequent travel, globalized trade and greater interconnectedness between countries, infectious disease outbreaks of international concern are becoming as inevitable as they remain unpredictable

# 68<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, 2015

*“....welcomed the development of a **Blueprint** — in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders— for **accelerating research and development** in epidemics where there are **no, or insufficient, preventive, and curative solutions**, taking into account other relevant work-streams within **WHO**”*

## **G7 Health Ministers, G7 2015**

***“...continued financing, collaboration and coordination ....through initiatives such as WHO Blueprint for R&D preparedness and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R).”***

# Why WHO?

- U.S. National Academy of Medicine calls for \$4.5Bn for pandemic preparedness
  - \$1 Bn of which is for Therapeutics, Diagnostics and Vaccine development
  - WHO to serve as secretariat
- *“In preparation for a future public health emergency, the World Health Organization (WHO) should consider creating a permanent capability within the organization to coordinate accelerated regulatory review” – Ebola Vaccine Team B*

# Why WHO?

*“These Ebola vaccine results are a huge achievement... They demonstrate the power of equitable international partnerships and flexibility, and should change how the world responds to emerging health threats in future.”* Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome Trust, ‘The Ebola vaccine we dared to dream of is here’, The Guardian, 3 August 2015

*“WHO proved its capacity to lead, convene, coordinate, and establish norms among a broad range of public and private actors on research and development and data sharing. ... Clinical trials for vaccines and drugs were launched in record time. ... WHO provided valuable technical leadership about the ethics of using unproven therapies.”* Report of the Harvard-LSHTM Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola “Will Ebola change the game? Ten essential reforms before the next pandemic”, The Lancet, 22 November 2015

## Two key, complementary objectives

- Develop (and implement) a roadmap for R&D preparedness for known priority pathogens, and
- Enable roll-out of an emergency R&D response as early and as efficiently as possible



# **How is the Blueprint being developed?**

Driven by scientific knowledge

An inclusive process with a clear mandate  
and defined milestones

Building on the efforts of others

A collaborative effort with Member States and  
other relevant stakeholders



# **What concrete benefits are expected from the implementation of the R&D Blueprint? (1)**

## **Better R&D preparedness for diseases that might lead to epidemics**

- Identification of the 5 (to 10) top priority diseases
- Mapping of pipelines for medical technologies
- List of optimal attributes for medical technologies (Target Product Profiles)
- Diagnostic tools to identify emerging outbreaks due to top priority diseases
- Innovative approaches to leverage industry's expertise (through R&D and production platforms)
- Mechanisms to improve global coordination
- A portfolio of promising experimental medical technologies (e.g. treatments and vaccines) for the top priority diseases, with results available from Phase 1 safety trials in man

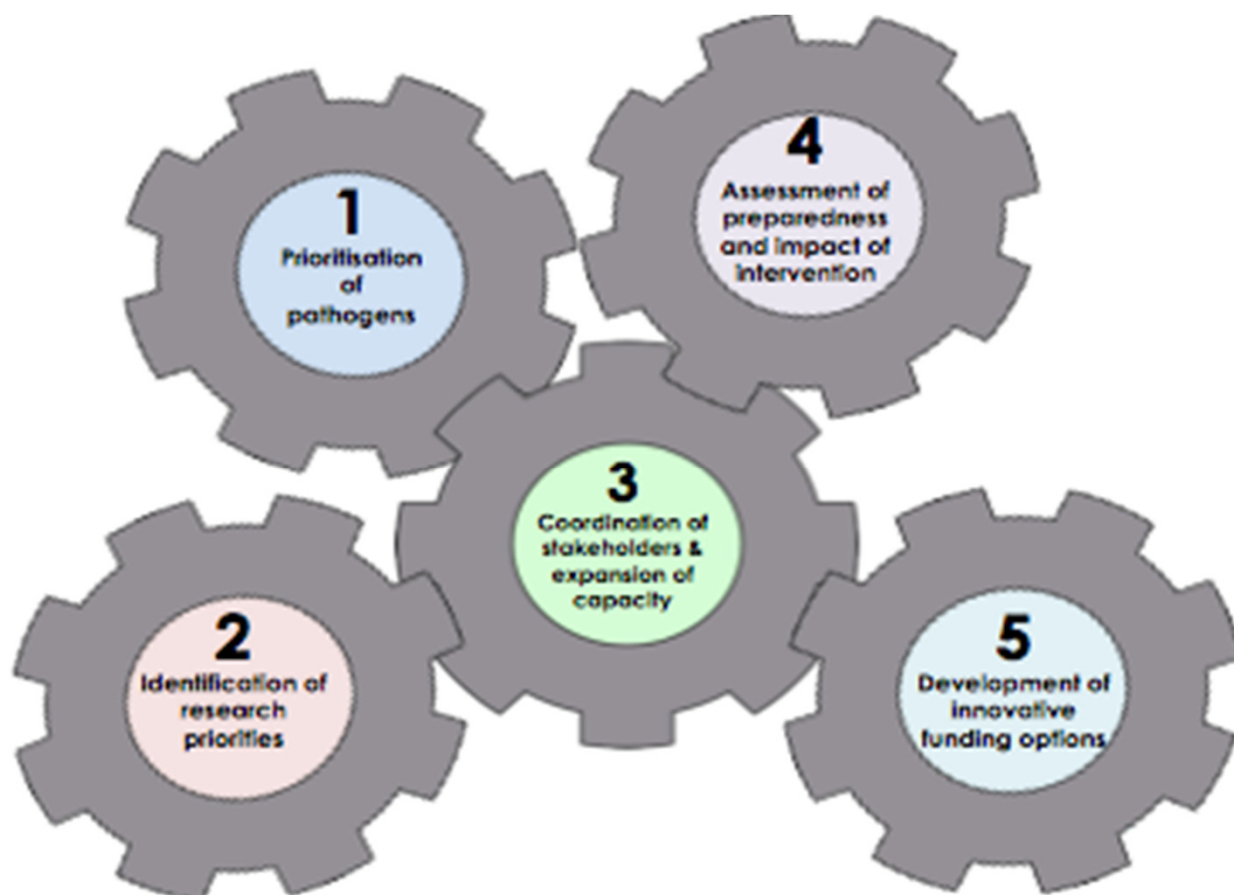
# **What concrete benefits are expected from the implementation of the R&D Blueprint? (2)**

## **Better readiness to promptly conduct R&D during an emergency**

- Mechanisms to improve global coordination
- Identification of pathways to produce, procure, deliver and use priority health technologies during an emergency
- Better and stronger ethical and regulatory capacity in low- and middle-income countries
- Mapped and strengthened networks of clinical trial centres and experts – both in the North and the South
- A toolbox of generic protocols and agreements
- Solutions for liability and indemnification challenges for manufacturers
- Options to take into consideration the Nagoya Protocol obligations with a view to facilitate sharing of samples and accelerating detection of infectious threats

# Five work-streams

designed to identify key actions required to achieve the objectives



# Initial Blueprint deliverables

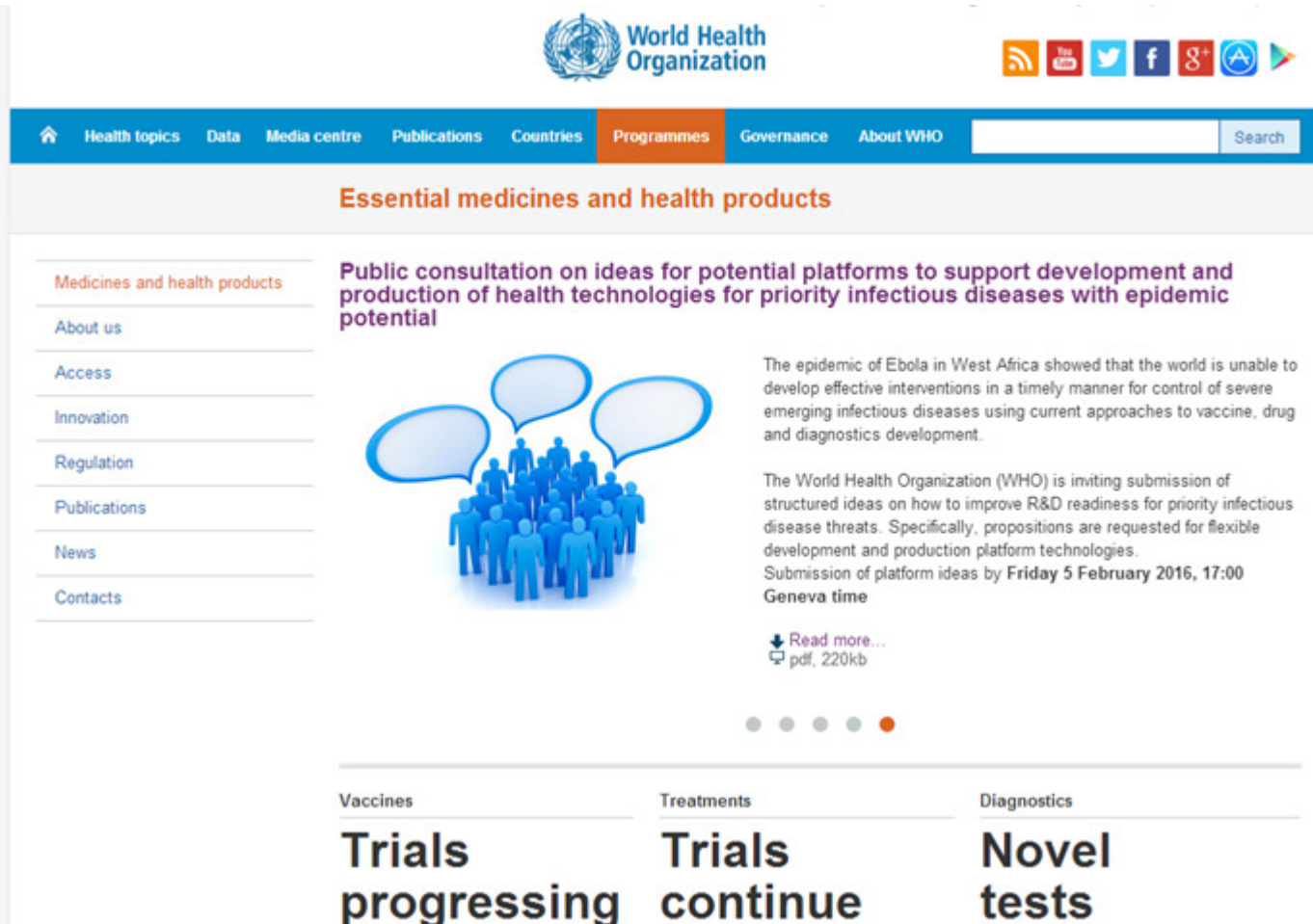


# Prioritization of key Pathogens



The initial list of disease priorities needing urgent R&D attention comprises: Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever, Ebola virus disease and Marburg, Lassa fever, MERS and SARS coronavirus diseases, Nipah and Rift Valley fever. The list will be reviewed annually or when new diseases emerge.

# Platform Technologies Consultation



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## Essential medicines and health products

**Public consultation on ideas for potential platforms to support development and production of health technologies for priority infectious diseases with epidemic potential**

The epidemic of Ebola in West Africa showed that the world is unable to develop effective interventions in a timely manner for control of severe emerging infectious diseases using current approaches to vaccine, drug and diagnostics development.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is inviting submission of structured ideas on how to improve R&D readiness for priority infectious disease threats. Specifically, propositions are requested for flexible development and production platform technologies.

Submission of platform ideas by **Friday 5 February 2016, 17:00 Geneva time**

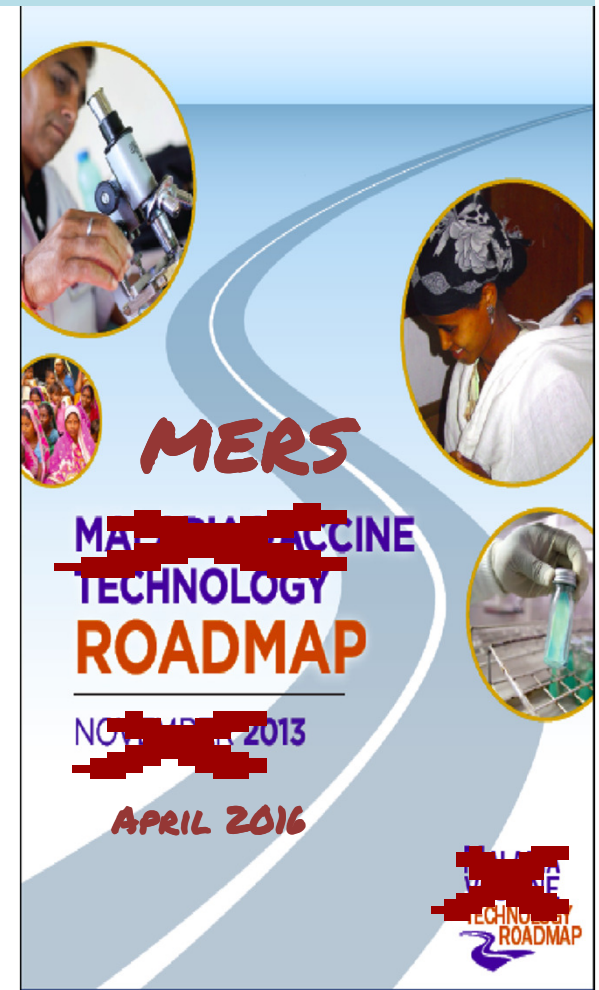
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Vaccines Treatments Diagnostics

**Trials progressing** **Trials continue** **Novel tests**

# Development of R&D Roadmaps for priority pathogens

Roadmaps as a vehicle for addressing large-scale Public health challenges





# Governance and coordination





# Data Sharing

## ICJME Recommendations, 2015

<<New paragraph>>

In the event of a public health emergency (as defined by public health officials), information with immediate implications for public health should be disseminated without concern that this will preclude subsequent consideration for publication in a journal.

concern. See Section IV.g.i. for referencing retracted articles.

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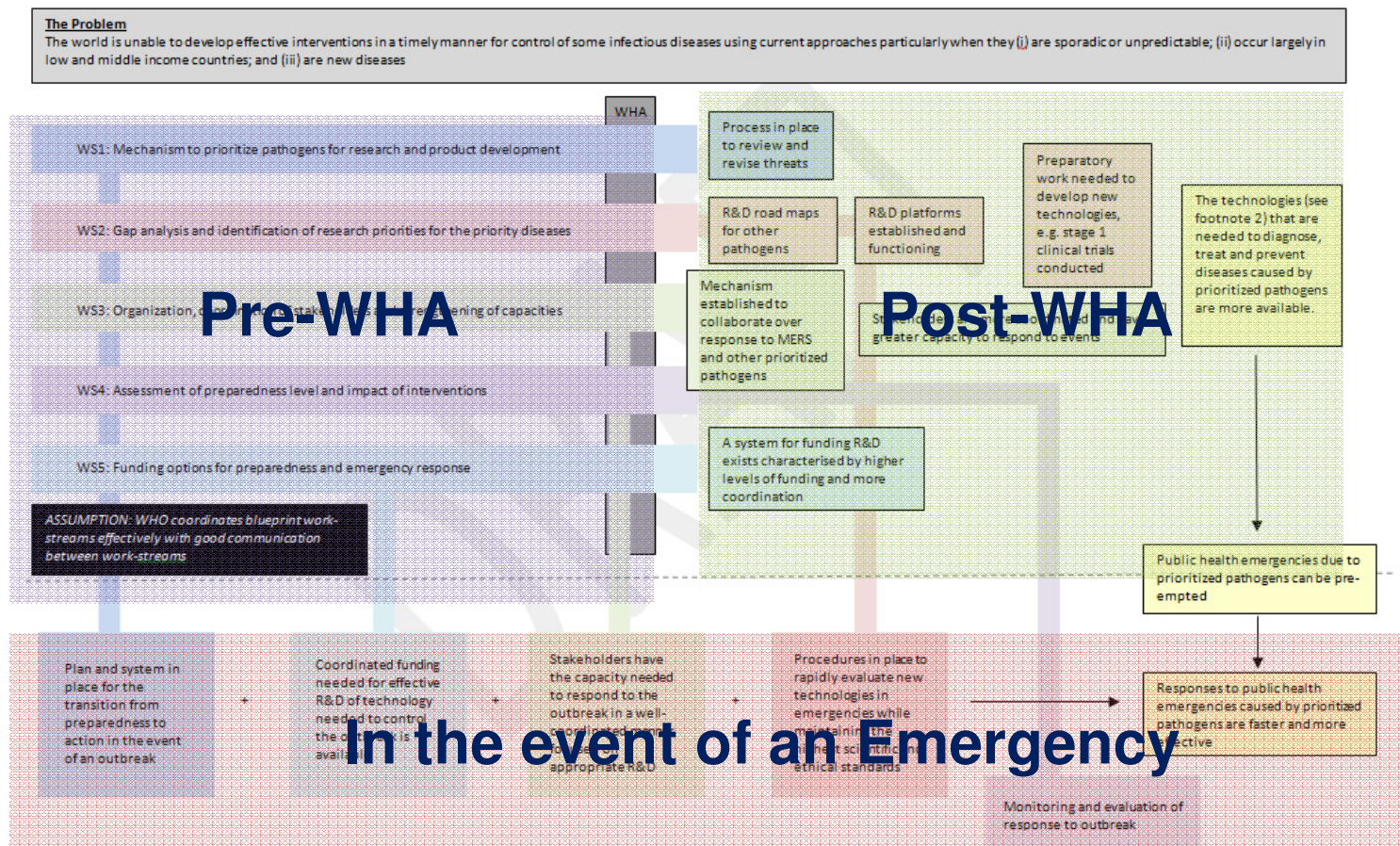
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submit the same manuscript, in multiple versions, simultaneously to more

abstract or poster displayed at a scientific meeting. It also does not prevent journals from considering a paper that has been presented at a scientific meeting but was not published in full, or that is being considered for publication in proceedings or similar format. Press reports of scheduled meetings are not usually regarded as breaches of this rule, but they may be if additional data tables or figures enrich such reports. Authors should also consider how dissemination of their findings outside of scientific presentations at meetings may diminish the priority journal editors assign to their work. ~~An exception to this principle may occur when information that has immediate implications for public health needs to be disseminated, but when possible, early distribution of findings before publication should be discussed with and agreed upon by the editor in advance.~~

Sharing with public media, government agencies, or manufacturers the scientific information described in a paper or a letter to the editor that has been accepted but not yet published violates the policies of many journals. Such reporting may be warranted when the paper or letter describes major therapeutic advances; reportable diseases; or

# Monitoring and evaluation Framework



# Oslo Consultation on Financing Options

Outcome document  
Financing of R&D Preparedness and Response to  
Epidemic Emergencies  
October 29-30, 2015  
Oslo, Norway

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Norwegian Institute  
of Public Health

## Background

This Outcome document summarizes discussions that took place during the Oslo consultation on *Financing of R&D Preparedness and Response to Epidemic Emergencies* (October 29-30, 2015). It reflects views expressed and the discussion that took place, but does not necessarily reflect all interventions. Names of representatives of countries and organizations participating in the Oslo consultation on Financing can be found on the webpage of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Stakeholders represented included government, industry, NGOs and academia as well as charitable foundations





# Linkages with CEWG follow-up/AMR

WHO Secretariat ensures harmonized approach:

- Blueprint & AMR feed into Global Health R&D Observatory which is central R&D data hub
- Blueprint overlaps with CEWG disease scope, thus Workstream 5 on financing builds on TDR's work on a voluntary pooled funding mechanism
- On neglected diseases and Blueprint similar questions arise with respect to research coordination



# Report to the Executive Board

## EB138/28



World Health  
Organization

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
138th session  
Provisional agenda item 9.1

**EB138/28**  
20 November 2015

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**Options for strengthening information-sharing on  
diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic products and  
for enhancing WHO's capacity to facilitate access to  
these products, including the establishment of a  
global database, starting with haemorrhagic fevers**

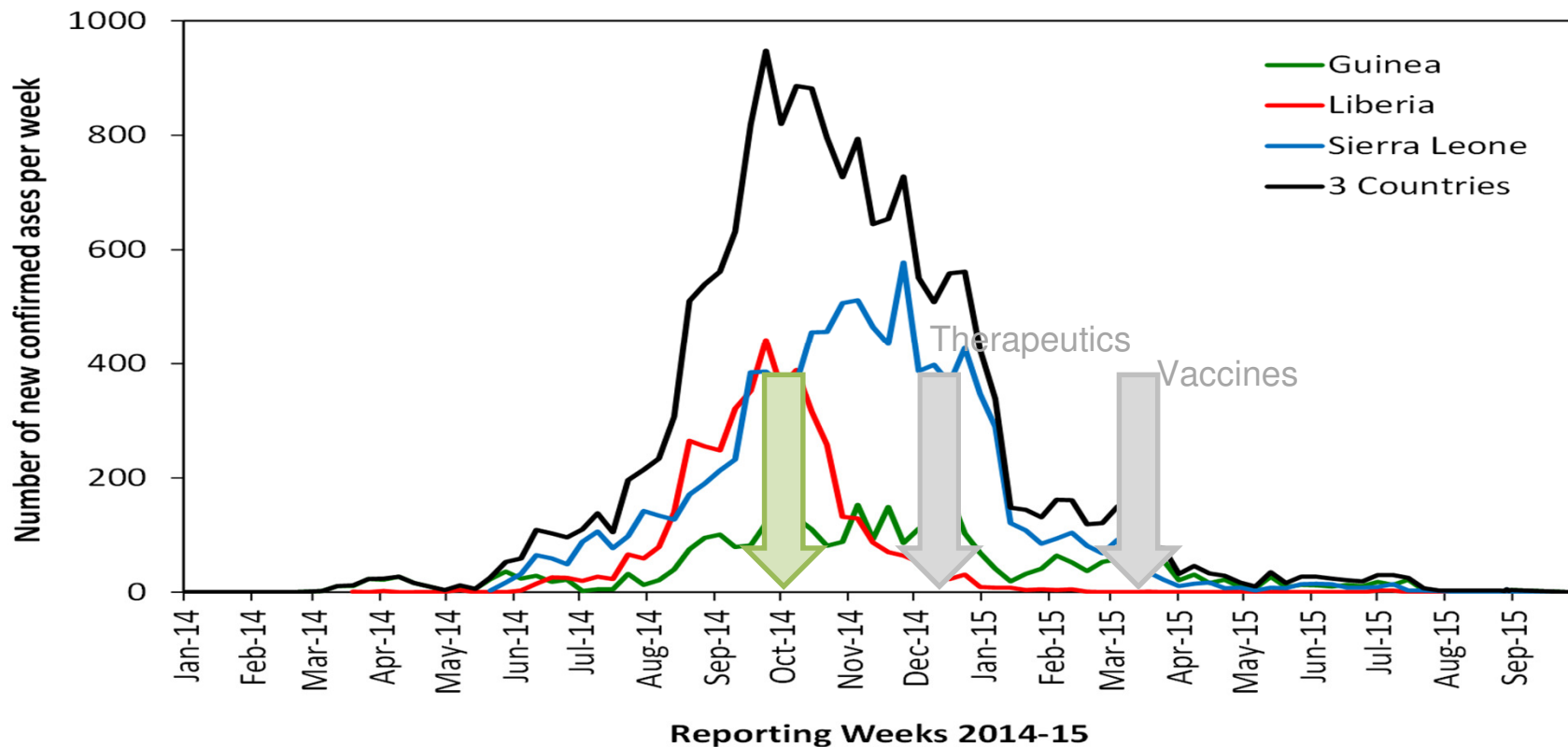
**Report by the Secretariat**

### **BACKGROUND**

1. In resolution EBSS3.R1, adopted in January 2015 by the Executive Board at its special session on the Ebola emergency,<sup>1</sup> the Director-General was requested to provide to the Executive Board at its

# Next Time...

>20,000 Ebola cases in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone





***“We should never again experience a crisis like the West Africa Ebola Epidemic. The world needs a more dynamic approach to R&D for life-saving drugs, vaccines and diagnostics.”***

*Dr Mimi Darko, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana*